(b) whether any organisation/structure s being created under Department of Defence to handle the safety and regulation of defence nuclear activities including weapons development and deployment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government are reviewing the matter.

Bharat Ratna Award

*508. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Ratna award have been given in sufficient numbers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the guidelines in awarding Bharat Ratna;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to introudce some international awards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Bharat Ratna Award, which was instituted in 1954, has been conferred on 34 persons so far. A statement showing the names of the recipients of the award is enclosed in the statement (*see* below).

(c) In terms of the regulations made by the President, Bharat Ratna is awarded for exceptional service towards the advancement of Art, Literature and Science, and in recognition of public service of the highest order.

(d) and (e) An award, known as Bharat Samman Award, to be conferred on foreign nationals including persons of Indian origin and non-resident Indians, who have contributed towards fostering better understanding of India abroad, and for their support to the cause of India and for promotion of India's interests internationally, was instituted on the 26th January, 1998. There is no proposal to introduce any new international award at present.

Statement

List of the Recipients of Bharat Ratna (1954—1998)

Sl. No.	Name	Year
1.	Shri Chakravarti Rajagopalachari	1954
2.	Shri Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman	1954
3.	Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan	1954
4.	Dr. Bhagwan Das	1955
5.	Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru	1955
6.	Dr. Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya	1955
7.	Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant	1957
8.	Dr. Dhonde Keshav Karve	1958
9.	Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy	1961
10.	Shri Purushottam Das Tandon	1961
11.	Dr. Rajendra Prasad	1962
12.	Dr. Pandurang Vaman Kane	1963
13.	Dr. Zakir Hussain	1963
14.	Shri Lal Bahadur Shashtri (Posthumous)	1966
15.	Smt. Indira Gandhi	1971
16.	Shri V.V. Giri	1975
17.	Shri Kumaraswamy Kamraj (Posthumous)	1976
18.	Mother Mary Teresa Bojaxhiu	1980
19.	Acharya Vinoba Bhave (Posthumous)	1983
20.	Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan	1987

Sl. No.	Name	Year
21.	Shri M.G. Ramachandran (Posthumous)	1988
22.	Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (Posthumous)	1990
23.	Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela	1990
24.	Shri Morarji Ranchhodji Desai	1991
25.	Shri Rajiv Gandhi (Posthumous)	1991
26.	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Posthumous)	1991
27.	Shri Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhai Tata	1992
28.	Shri Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (Posthumous)	1992
29.	Shri Satyajit Ray	1992
30.	Smt. Aruna Asaf Ali (Posthumous)	1997
31.	Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda	1997
32.	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam	1997
33.	Smt. M.S. Subbulakshmi	1998
34.	Shri C. Subramaniam	1998

Export of Handloom and Powerloom Products from Orissa

*509. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the handicrafts, handlooms and powerloom products from Orissa which are being exported at present;

(b) the countries to which these products have been exported during the last three years, and foreign exchanges earned thereby;

(c) whether there is a vast scope to increase the production and export of these items; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in tl regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILI (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (According to available information t handicrafts and handlooms produ exported from Orissa include Dhok Casting (Artmetalware), Puri Umbre (Applique work), tie & dye sarees a made-ups Orissa had only 0.23% registered Powerlooms in the country on 31.3.1997 with almost no exports Powerlooms products from the State members of Powerloom Development Export Promotion Council.

(b) State-wise export figures to vario countries are not maintained. Howeve EU member states, USA, Canada a Japan are the major importers of Indi Handlooms, Handicrafts and Powerloor products.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is considerab scope for increasing production a exports of these products from Ind including the State of Orissa.

(d) Government has been taking number of steps to increase tl production and export of handloom handicrafts and and powerlooms item These include design & developmen training, marketing support research an development including market researc and product development, participatio in buyer-seller meets and fairs/both i India and abroad.

Employment Opportunities for Women i Madhya Pradesh

*510. SHRI RAGHAVJI: will th Minister of RURAL AREAS ANI EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of different project undertaken by the Government t provide employment to unskilled/skille rural women of Madhya Pradesh durin the preceding three years;

(b) whether Madhya Prades Government have requested fo